

Application. No. 10/067,426

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously Presented) A signalling system comprising a transponder including a controller for controlling the operation of the transponder, an active radio transceiver coupled to the controller by way of switching means, an electric current source coupled to the controller, and a passive radio signal receiving means coupled to the controller for providing signals for activating the switching means to inhibit or permit the operation of the radio transceiver, a transponder interrogation station for interrogating the transponder by way of signals transmitted to, and received from, the active radio transceiver, and a source of switching signals receivable by the passive signal receiving means when in range; and wherein the controller receives current from the electric current source without regard to whether the passive radio signal receiving means is in range.
2. (Previously Presented) A system as claimed in claim 1, characterised in that the transponder further comprises at least one transducer coupled to the controller and a random access memory for storing data representative of information produced by the transponder; wherein the at least one transducer is selected from the group consisting of a temperature sensor, a humidity sensor, and an accelerometer.
3. (Previously Presented) A system as claimed in claim 2, characterised in that the transponder interrogation station has storage means for storing said data relayed by the transponder in response to an interrogation signal.
4. (Previously Presented) A system as claimed in claim 1, characterised in that the

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source of switching signals comprises a radio transmitter for communicating with the passive radio receiver.

5. (Previously Presented) A system as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the transponder interrogation station and the source of switching signals operate at different frequencies.

6. (Previously Presented) A system as claimed in claim 4, characterized in that the transponder interrogation station and the source of switching signals operate at different frequencies.

7. (Previously Presented) A transponder for use in an interrogation system, the transponder including a controller for controlling the operation of the transponder, an active radio transceiver coupled to the controller by way of switching means, an electric current source coupled to the controller, and a passive radio signal receiving means coupled to the controller for providing signals for activating the switching means to inhibit or permit the operation of the active radio transceiver; and wherein the controller receives current from the electric current source without regard to whether the passive signal receiving means is in range.

8. (Previously Presented) A transponder as claimed in claim 7, characterised in that the transponder further comprises at least one transducer coupled to the controller; and a random access memory for storing data representative of information produced by the

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transponder; wherein the at least one transducer is selected from the group consisting of a temperature sensor, a humidity sensor, and an accelerometer.

9. (Previously Presented) A transponder as claimed in claim 8, characterised in that the transponder interrogation station has storage means for storing said data relayed by the transponder in response to an interrogation signal.

10. - 14. (Cancelled)